

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 46-48 as shown below. The pending claims are believed to be as follows:

1-29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein said intervertebral disc implant consists essentially of disc annulus material.

31. (previously presented) A method of augmenting or replacing an intervertebral disc nucleus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an intervertebral disc implant comprising allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that is substantially free of both disc nucleus material and disc endplate material; and

(b) implanting said intervertebral disc implant in an intervertebral disc nucleus space;
wherein said intervertebral disc implant comprises allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that comprises a whole disc annulus.

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously amended) A method of augmenting or replacing an intervertebral disc nucleus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an intervertebral disc implant comprising allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that is substantially free of both disc nucleus material and disc endplate material; and

(b) implanting said intervertebral disc implant in an intervertebral disc nucleus space;

wherein said intervertebral disc implant comprises allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that comprises a whole disc annulus; and

wherein said intervertebral disc implant further includes allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament.

34. (original) A method according to claim 33 wherein said allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament is attached to said allogenic or xenogenic disc material.

35. (original) A method according to claim 33 wherein said allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament has free ends extending outward from said allogenic or xenogenic disc material.

36. (original) A method according to claim 35 wherein said free ends of said allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament are wrapped around said allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material.

37. (original) A method according to claim 35 wherein the free ends of the allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament are secured together.

38. (original) A method according to claim 37 wherein the free ends of the allogenic or xenogenic anterior longitudinal ligament are secured together with sutures, staples, or an adhesive.

39-43. (cancelled)

44. (original) A method according to claim 31 wherein said whole disc annulus is folded or rolled into a more compact structure.

45. (original) A method according to claim 44 wherein said whole disc annulus is cut to facilitate folding or rolling the annulus into a more compact structure.

46. (presently amended) A method of augmenting or replacing an intervertebral disc nucleus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an intervertebral disc implant comprising allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that is substantially free of both disc nucleus material and disc endplate material; and

(b) implanting said intervertebral disc implant in an intervertebral disc nucleus space;

wherein said intervertebral disc implant comprises allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that comprises a whole disc annulus;

wherein said whole disc annulus is folded or rolled into a more compact structure;

wherein said whole disc annulus is dehydrated after folding or rolling into a more compact structure.

47. (presently amended) A method of augmenting or replacing an intervertebral disc nucleus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an intervertebral disc implant comprising allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that is substantially free of both disc nucleus material and disc endplate material; and

(b) implanting said intervertebral disc implant in an intervertebral disc nucleus space;

wherein said intervertebral disc implant comprises allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that comprises a whole disc annulus;

wherein said whole disc annulus is folded or rolled into a more compact structure;

wherein said whole disc annulus is sutured or glued after folding or rolling into a more compact structure.

48. (presently amended) A method of augmenting or replacing an intervertebral disc nucleus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an intervertebral disc implant comprising allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that is substantially free of both disc nucleus material and disc endplate material; and

(b) implanting said intervertebral disc implant in an intervertebral disc nucleus space;

wherein said intervertebral disc implant comprises allogenic or xenogenic disc annulus material that comprises a whole disc annulus; and

wherein said whole disc annulus is wrapped in a jacket or wrap.

49. (original) A method according to claim 48 wherein said jacket or wrap is made of allogenic or xenogenic tissue.

50-100. (cancelled)